

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 10-14 are currently pending. Claims 1-3, 8, and 10-14 have been amended; and Claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

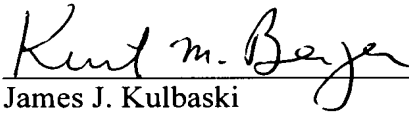
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scarampi (U.S. Patent 4,931,865, hereinafter “the ‘865 patent”) in view of Miyazaki et al. (U.S. Patent 5,703,637, hereinafter “the ‘637 patent”) and Flickner et al. (U.S. Patent 6,577,329 B1, hereinafter “the ‘329 patent”); Claims 3, 7, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘865 patent in view of the ‘637 patent, the ‘329 patent, and Kiefl (U.S. Patent 5,382,970); and Claim 15 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 8 to recite allowable features of Claim 15. In addition, Applicants have amended Claims 1-3, 8, and 10-14 to address cosmetic matters of form. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 8 (and all associated dependent claims) are allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kurt M. Berger", is written over a horizontal line.

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